



M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION



LEGAL AND GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION NAME CHANGE QUESTIONNAIRE:

Public Act 06-92 (HB 5478) was passed by the Legislature this session and requires DMR to solicit input regarding a name change for the Department from clients and families receiving services provided by the Department, advocates of person with mental retardation and other interested parties. DMR is required to submit a report of findings and recommendations, including the cost of any recommended name change, to the Governor, the Office of Policy and Management and the Public Health Committee not later than January 1, 2007.

It is important at the outset to clarify that this solicitation of input is only with regard to changing the name of the Department and is in no way meant to change the current mission of the Department, including the eligibility criteria of people served by the Department.

Your thoughts are important to us. The Department has designed a questionnaire to gather input, allowing us to make an educated and informed recommendation on this very important issue. The questionnaire should not be viewed as a “vote” but rather as an opportunity to present your thoughts, concerns, ideas and implications of any potential name change. The questionnaire (below) will be available online as well as distributed by mail and handed out at various family forums, advocacy and advisory meetings. There will also be a statewide public forum at 9:30 AM on Thursday, September 7, 2006 in Room 1D at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. Additional details are available on DMR’s website: <http://www.dmr.state.ct.us/NameChange.htm> Department staff will then compile and evaluate all submissions and make an executive decision and recommendation to the Legislature as to if the name should be changed, if so to what, and any fiscal implications of a potential name change.

Timeline:

- June 2006: formalize questionnaire, establish procedure; identify/contact stakeholders; identify input opportunities
- July 2006: share plan with stakeholders; officially request input from consumers, families, advocates and other identified stakeholders; identify fiscal/cost aspects of name change
- August 2006: collect input statewide; request fiscal/cost information data
- September 2006: collect input statewide; hold Public Forum at LOB September 7, 2006
- October 2006: collect input statewide
- November 2006: input deadline Nov. 15th; begin compilation of data
- December 2006: complete compilation of data and make formal recommendation to the legislature by January 1, 2007

Questionnaire:

Please copy this questionnaire into your email or letter for uniformity in the format of responses. Also, if you choose to hand-write your response, please print clearly. Thank you!

Stakeholder name:

Stakeholder address:

(Optional) Stakeholder position/relation to DMR (example: self advocate, person currently receiving services from DMR, parent/family member of an individual with mental retardation, guardian, provider, staff person, interested citizen/person not served by DMR, etc.):

Would you like to be notified of the final decision and recommendation?

If yes, please supply your preferred method of contact: (post mail or email address)

Please answer the following questions:

1. Are you in favor of a name change for the Department of Mental Retardation?
2. Why or Why not?
3. If yes- to what?
4. Do you see any possible implications associated with this name change (aside from printing costs for new stationary)?
5. If yes- what implications?
6. Additional thoughts/comments:

Please mail your questionnaire response to:

Department of Mental Retardation (name change)
Attn: Christine Pollio, Legislative Liaison
460 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Or email it to:

DMR.NameChange@po.state.ct.us

Subject line: name change questionnaire

Thank you for your input. We value everyone's opinion on this important issue and look forward to hearing from you. Please share this information with anyone else that you think might be interested in providing feedback to the Department.